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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE

A. FROM THE LARGE...

EMBASSY BONN REPORTS THE FRG CABINET MEETS TODAY TO DISCUSS
THE SITUATION IN ZAIRE AND THE POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING
HUMANITARIAN AID. ACCORDING TO A HIGH-RANKING FOREIGN
OFFICE OFFICIAL, FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WILL PROPOSE:

--GRANTS OF UP TO DM 5 MILLION WORTH OF FOOD AND MEDI-
CAL SUPPLIES;

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--THE MAINTENANCE OF FRG EXPORT GUARANTEES TO ZAIRE;
AND

--THE POSSIBILITY OF HIS TRAVELLING TO ZAIRE, PROB-
ABLY IN MID-MAY, TO ATTEND THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
FRG/ZAIRE MIXED ECONOMIC COMMISSION.

B. ...AND THE SMALL

EMBASSY BANGUI REPORTS THAT EMPEROR BOKASSA MADE A RADIO STATEMENT ON APRIL 12 IN WHICH HE:

--DENOUNCED THE AGGRESSION AGAINST ZAIRE;

--PLEDGED HIS FULL, BUT UNSPECIFIED, SUPPORT TO THE KINSHASA REGIME; AND

--SALUTED THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE AIDED ZAIRE.

BOKASSA ALSO CRITICIZED THE NON-AFRICAN "REVOLUTIONARY COUNTRIES" WHICH SUPPORTED THE AGGRESSION, BUT DID NOT NAME THEM. NOR DID HE INCLUDE THE US IN HIS LIST OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE GIVEN "EFFECTIVE SUPPORT" TO ZAIRE. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 6410 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) BANGUI 704, 4/13.)

2. F-16 AGONIES IN DENMARK

RECENT DANISH PRESS CRITICISM OF THE F-16, FUELED BY THE GAO REPORT ON THE AIRCRAFT'S RISING COST, HAS COMPLICATED AND LENGTHENED THE PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES REQUIRED BEFORE THE DANES CAN SIGN THE LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE (LOA) COMPLETING THE SALE. AS A RESULT, DANISH DEFENSE MINISTER MOLLER HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR DEAN THAT IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE ALL THE DELIBERATIONS
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BEFORE THE MAY 2 DEADLINE. MOLLER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE, HOWEVER, THAT THE REMAINING OBSTACLES WILL BE OVERCOME, AND THAT THE LOA WILL BE SIGNED IN AN ADDITIONAL WEEK'S TIME.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WE AGREE WITH MOLLER'S ASSESSMENT. IT IS OUR IMPRESSION, HOWEVER, THAT THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM WILL BE ABLE TO SIGN BEFORE MAY 2 AND MAY BE RELUCTANT TO SUPPORT A DANISH REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION. IF SUCH A REQUEST IS MADE, WE WOULD STRONGLY RECOMMEND US CONCURRENCE IN ORDER TO HELP THE DANES CLEAR THEIR PARLIAMENTARY HURDLES. (CONFIDENTIAL) COPENHAGEN 2140, 2141 AND 2142, 4/13.)

3. THE PHILIPPINES: THE MUSLIM SEPARATIST QUESTION

A. MARCOS NOT WORRIED

DURING A MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN ON APRIL 13,

PRESIDENT MARCOS:

--EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR A FINAL
SETTLEMENT WITH THE MUSLIM SEPARATIST MORO NATIONAL
LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF); BUT

--ASSERTED THAT EVEN IF NEGOTIATIONS COLLAPSED, ONLY
A SMALL FACTION OF THE DISUNITED MNLF WOULD RESORT TO
FIGHTING.

MARCOS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS MILITARY COMMANDERS WERE MORE
PESSIMISTIC, BUT HE BELIEVED HE COULD CONTROL THE MINDANAO
SITUATION.

B. MINDANAO RESIDENTS PREPARE FOR WORST

OUR CONSULATE IN CEBU REPORTS THAT NO ISSUE SINCE THE DEC-
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LARATION OF MARTIAL LAW IN 1972 HAS AROUSED MORE ALARM
AMONG SOUTHERN FILIPINOS THAN MARCOS' PROCLAMATION OF A
MUSLIM AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MINDANAO. THE LOCAL POPULACE
SEES NO PEACEFUL OUTCOME FROM MARCOS' EFFORTS TO STRIKE
A SETTLEMENT ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE MNLF AND THE CHRIS-
TIAN MAJORITY. THE CONSULATE HAS ALSO RECEIVED SEVERAL
REPORTS THAT THE GOP IS QUIETLY DISTRIBUTING WEAPONS TO
CHRISTIAN RESIDENTS, INCREASING THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN
ETHNIC BLOODBATH WHEN POLITICAL EFFORTS INEVITABLY FAIL TO
PLEASE BOTH SIDES. (SECRET) MANILA 5393 AND (CONFIDENTIAL)
CEBU 20, 4/13.)
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